

# DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

## news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife

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### MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION COMMISSION VOTES ADDITIONS TO THREE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES

The Migratory Bird Conservation Commission approved additions to three national wildlife refuges in the southern part of the United States at its meeting in Washington, D.C., August 5, it was announced today.

Refuges and acreages involved were Okefenokee (5,145) and Wolf Island (3,680) in Georgia, and J. N. "Ding" Darling (587) in Florida.

Okefenokee Swamp is one of the most primitive wilderness areas in the nation and provides extensive wintering grounds for waterfowl, as well as a nesting area for wood ducks.

The refuge, which now has nearly 350,000 acres, also is one of the most important remaining strongholds for alligators, ospreys, and Florida sandhill cranes.

Wolf Island and J. N. "Ding" Darling refuges are primarily important as wintering habitat for migratory birds.

Members of the Commission are Secretary of the Interior Walter J. Hickel (chairman), Secretary of Agriculture Clifford Hardin, Secretary of Transportation John Volpe, Senator Lee Metcalf of Montana, Senator Henry Bellmon of Oklahoma, Representative Silvio Conte of Massachusetts, and Representative John Dingell of Michigan.

Ex officio members of the Commission, representing State fish and game agencies, who attended the meeting were Dr. O. E. Frye, Jr., of Florida and Oscar Dewberry of Georgia.

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